
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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**SENATOR GREGG ANNOUNCES \$33,375 TO DEVELOP REGION-WIDE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN SOUTHWESTERN N.H.**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded a \$33,375 federal grant to the Southwest Region Planning Commission, based in Keene, for the development of a strategic vision for Southwestern New Hampshire. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy will pull together all member communities of the Commission to discuss a regional development strategy and prioritize important specific economic development projects. Having a formal strategy makes the region eligible to receive other kinds of grants from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

Senator Gregg, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for the EDA, stated, "This grant has the potential to serve as an enormous economic catalyst for the Monadnock Region and other communities in Southwestern New Hampshire. When neighboring cities and towns join together for the benefit of the entire region, they are able to identify the strengths of each community and seize opportunities that will lead to economic growth far greater than the size of a planning grant such as this. I am pleased to see the Southwest Region Planning Commission receive this grant as it will yield important dividends to a significant area of our state."

Tim Murphy, Executive Director fo the Commission, stated, "This is great news for the towns of Southwest New Hampshire. The process of preparing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy will facilitate opportunities for coordination and cooperation among the Region's towns while also making high priority initiatives eligible for specific EDA program funds."

For more information, contact Mr. Murphy at (603) 357-0557.

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